

**HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Session Meeting Minutes**  
**21 September 2022**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

Moderator Rev Nolan Huizenga called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Rev Megan McCarty led the Session in evening prayer. A quorum was present.

Elders Present: Laurie Anderson, Ralph Bowling, Sara Gambrell, Helen Jones, Ann Lacy, Steve Makela, Nancy Owen, Patti Pinkley, Carol Pye, Paul Troy, Chris Valentine, Lauren Wood.

Clerk to the Session: Cynthia Welch

Staff Present: Nolan Huizenga, Megan McCarty

Guests: Kathy Reed, PNC; Joel Weible, MKP CoM Liaison; Katherine Trentham, MKP CoM.

Elders Excused: Clyde Foshee, David Morrison, Kathy Mounce, Mike Reed, Craig Siegenthaler.

Elders Absent: Ben Anderson

The agenda was adopted by consent with no objections.

**Clerk's Report**

Minutes. The minutes of the 17 August Session meeting were approved with a motion, a second, and no objections.

College care packages from the Session were discussed and decided on.

**Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approve STITCH sales at PresFest on 25 September 2022.
- 2) Approve celebration of communion at the WINGS retreat 22-23 October.
- 3) Retroactively approve Carol Pye and John Kim as Commissioners at the MKP meeting 19 September.
- 4) **Baptism Request**: Matilda Anderson, daughter of Jessie and Ben Anderson, on 27 November 2022. Megan will preside.

All were approved with no objections.

**Growing in spiritual community**

Nolan began by saying the Session needs to know and care for each other as a group. Ann Lacy and Sara Gambrell spoke about the family-organized groups,

and wanting to broaden them to all members of the congregation. Session needs to take up the work by engaging all members, by calling members to join committees or fellowship opportunities. All this will be timed with the new HPC leadership. Where does HPC go from here, after a pastor change, covid, racial injustice? Truth-telling and relationship building are key – not to go back and rehash, but move forward with what's been learned, by discerning who God is calling HPC to be now.

The Session broke into small group discussion for relationship building about issues with transparency, navigating the past, forging bonds, building the church, and church dynamics. HPC will not be the same church, which gives opportunity. Nolan said he has seen the desire for HPC mission, new styles of leadership, more intimate ways to connect, and creating a new way forward with stewardship.

### **Committees**

PNC. Kathy Reed. The PNC has been listening to sermons (so much easier now in the days of hybrid services), and interviewing virtually. They are still getting new applications. The committee, meeting every other week, is in a better place, and closer with each other, than they were a year ago.

Adult Education. Fall speaker series in ongoing.

Children's Ministry. Ann Lacy. The first family night on 18 September went well and was well attended. Advent workshop will be on 4 December.

Church in the World. Megan McCarty. With no objections, third quarter disbursements to mission partners, already approved in the budget, were approved: MKP, \$14,000; KRM, \$2,000; Cabbage Patch, \$3,000; Habitat, \$2,500; HCM, \$5,500; PACT, \$1,000. HPC is sponsoring two tables at KRM's Global Gourmet on 30 September.

CNC. No report.

Earth Care. Megan. The application to become an Earth Care Congregation is extensive, and due in February. It will be discussed at the October Session meeting.

Fellowship. Ralph Bowling. PresFest is the coming Sunday, 25 September. Third Wednesday night dinners are starting again in October. Dinner will start at 5 PM; Session time will be pushed back to 6:15 PM.

Finance. Chris Valentine. He reported that all financial reports are given to Session for transparency.

Personnel. No report.

Property. New electrical service is needed on one side of the building (for the organ, and ramp foyer lights).

Race Equity No report.

Stewardship. No report.

Worship and Spiritual Life. Carol Pye. There was a brief discussion about whether the stained glass window in the back of sanctuary should be altered to be more inclusive. The decision was no, as the three boys depicted were the children of

the person who gave the window. The Christ candle will be in the front of the sanctuary and lit every Sunday. Communion was served on 4 September.

Youth Education. No report.

Deacons. Megan. This was normally the year HPC would have the Sages lunch, but instead the Deacons took cookies to all of them.

### **Pastors' Reports**

Megan. She is happy to be back after the birth of Zoe, and also a bit overwhelmed.

Nolan. He is happy to be at HPC, and delighted Megan is back. He wants to add more lay leadership in worship, including youth.

With a blessing and sending, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia B Welch  
Clerk to the Session